

# ULYSSES

## 2021 OAKVILLE - NAPA VALLEY

*"To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield." – Alfred Lord Tennyson, Ulysses*

Ulysses is a Cabernet Sauvignon with a touch of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot produced from Ulysses Vineyard, Oakville, California. Steeped in history, ULYSSES Vineyard, part of the original 1800's Charles Hopper Ranch, was acquired in 2008 by Christian Moueix. Along the Napa Valley's Oakville bench and extending over an alluvial fan at the foot of the Mayacamas Range, the site is exceptional for winegrowing. The soil is composed of deep, gravelly, clay loam and is particularly well-suited to growing Cabernet Sauvignon.

Since the acquisition, Christian Moueix and his team have pursued an in-depth understanding of the soil and microclimate and have undertaken a lengthy and meticulous vineyard restoration. Dry farming, the foundation of Ulysses' sustainable farming practices, enhances root depth and resistance to drought, resulting in a wine that is a pure expression of its terroir.

Our team's intention is to produce a wine reflecting the exceptional potential and individuality of the Ulysses Vineyard. Our approach is minimalist, with attentive observation and restrained intervention. Harvested at perfect ripeness and with the utmost care, the grapes undergo both cluster and berry selection before a gentle vinification and aging.

<b>Harvest Start:</b>	Sept 21st	<b>Harvest End:</b>	Sept 30th
<b>Cases Produced:</b>	1400	<b>Release Date</b>	TBD

**WEATHER 2021:** The vintage was characterized by a dry winter and spring, with a total of 14" of rain (July 2020 to June 2021, historical average: 31"). 2021 was the second consecutive year of a drought that started in January 2020. Temperatures were constantly warm over the growing season, moderately higher than the historical average and remained consistent throughout the ripening period. The weather conditions in 2021 favored an early hydric constraint which promoted production of small berries with high levels of phenolic compounds and deeply intense aromas.

**Winemaker's Notes:** High-toned, luminous, passionfruit, focused red berries, flinty with an elegant, long finish.

### JAMES SUCKLING

## 98 POINTS - #68 IN HIS TOP 100 WINES FROM THE USA

*The reserved plushness comes out clearly with brightness, focus and very creamy tannins that give it muscle and tension. Juicy and flavorful but not overdone. Energetic and flexing but in a friendly way. Plums, milk chocolate, terra cotta and nutmeg. Almost all cabernet sauvignon with a touch of cabernet franc and petit verdot. Give it four or five years to soften. Try after 2028.*

### VINOUS-95 POINTS

*The 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon is a huge, dense wine. Copious dark fruit, menthol, licorice, plum, espresso and spice are amplified in a large-scale, ample Oakville Cabernet. The 2021 is very much a wine of power and structure. Sepia-toned notes lend darkness, while the oak imprint also appears to be quite present at this stage. Even so, the wine exudes balance but in a pretty extroverted style, especially compared to Dominus.*

### WINE ADVOCATE-95 POINTS

